



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAND JURY RETURNS INDICTMENTS

Topeka, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that six individuals were indicted on Wednesday, September 10, 2003, by a federal grand jury in Topeka, Kansas. Those indicted include:

- ! **Maurice Franklin, Jr.**, 29, Neodesha, Kansas, in custody, is charged with one count of robbing a Burger King in Chanute, Kansas, on April 29, 2003, a business engaged in interstate commerce; one count of carrying a gun during the robbery of the Burger King on April 29, 2003; one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm on April 29, 2003; one count of robbing a Kentucky Fried Chicken in Coffeyville, Kansas, on May 8, 2003, a business engaged in interstate commerce; one count of carrying a gun during the robbery of the Kentucky Fried Chicken on May 8, 2003; and one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm on May 8, 2003.

If convicted, Franklin faces a maximum of twenty years in federal prison, without parole, on each count of robbery; a maximum of twenty-five years for each count of carrying a firearm during a robbery; and a maximum of ten years for each count of being a felon in possession of a firearm. The case was investigated by the Chanute Police Department, the Coffeyville Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Treaster.

- ! **John Lee Edwin Romans**, 25, Lyons, Kansas, in custody, is charged with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm; one count of possessing a stolen firearm; and one count of being an unlawful user of marijuana in possession of a firearm, all from July 29, 2003, until August 14, 2003.

If convicted, Romans faces a maximum of fifteen years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Lyons Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Treaster.

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- ! **Jeffrey J. Churchill**, 29, Henryetta, Oklahoma, in custody, is charged with one count of carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking crime; one count of possession with the intent to distribute less than 50 grams (less than 1.76 ounces) of methamphetamine; and one count of being a felon in possession of a handgun, all on September 3, 2003, in Sedgwick County, Kansas.

If convicted, Churchill faces a maximum of five years in federal prison, without parole, for possessing a firearm during a drug trafficking crime; a minimum of five years and a maximum of forty years for possession with the intent to distribute methamphetamine; and a maximum of ten years for being a felon in possession of a handgun. The case was investigated by the Wichita Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Task Force and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Treaster.

- ! **Hector Burgos**, 28, Bronx, New York, in custody, is charged with possession with the intent to distribute approximately 7 kilograms (approximately 15.4 pounds) of cocaine on August 31, 2003, in Russell County, Kansas.

If convicted, Burgos faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Russell County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

- ! **Jerdin O. Yanes**, 29, El Salvador, in custody, is charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with the intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more (11 pounds or more) of cocaine from July 27, 2003, until August 20, 2003, and one count of possession with the intent to distribute 5 kilograms or more (11 pounds or more) of cocaine on August 20, 2003, in Russell County, Kansas.

If convicted, Yanes faces a minimum of ten years and a maximum of life in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Russell County Sheriff's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

- ! **Milan Matousek**, 50, Seneca, Kansas, in custody, is charged with one count of conspiracy to transport, conceal, harbor, and shield from detection illegal aliens from an unknown date until May 29, 2003, in Nemaha County, Kansas.

The indictment alleges that Matousek caused illegal aliens, who were not authorized to work in the United States, to travel to Kansas to obtain employment. The indictment further alleges that Matousek worked for a company who contracted with employers to supply legal alien workers. The indictment alleges that Matousek picked up illegal aliens at the bus station in Topeka, Kansas, or the airport in Kansas City, Missouri, and drove the illegal aliens in his car to Seneca, Kansas. The indictment also alleges that Matousek would

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stay until long-term housing became available and that Matousek paid the motel bills and later received reimbursement from his employer.

If convicted, Matousek faces a maximum of ten years in federal prison without parole. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Custom Enforcement.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictments filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.